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INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY

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DEPARTMENT FOR CA/VO, EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: N/A TAGS: <u>CVIS PREL BX</u>

SUBJECT: BRUNEI TO ISSUE BIOMETRIC PASSPORT IN FALL

REF: 06 BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 572

- 11. (U) The Government of Brunei announced on Thursday, February 15 that it had awarded a contract for production of biometric-compliant e-passports to Giesecke & Devrient (G&D) of Germany. G&D will partner with a the local firm ITPSS to equip Brunei's immigration department with necessary production equipment for the e-passport system.
- 12. (U) Azmi Hj Hafneh, Assistant Director of the Immigration Department and project manager for the e-passport program, told us that he expects the first e-passports to be issued in early September of this year. Azmi assured us that the GoB would provide the USG (and others) with exemplars and information on the new passport design's security features in late July or early August. SKODON